

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00550 210633Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----097464 210635Z /11
O 210406Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8853

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 550

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, KS, US
SUBJ: HIGH LEVEL KOREAN VISITS

REF: SEOUL 242

1. FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG JIN CALLED ME IN LATE YESTERDAY, JANUARY 21, TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL FOR PRIMIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON (REFTEL). AFTER ASKING FIRST WHETHER I HAD ANY RESPONSE, HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PRESSING FOR A VISIT AND, AS A MATTER OF FACT, PRIMIN WAS VERY RELAXED REGARDING POSSIBILITY. IN FACT, PRIMIN WOULD BE TIED UP LATE FEBRUARY FOR SPECIAL SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. WHEN I PROBED A BIT, IT DEVELOPED THAT ROKG IS GIVING LOW PRIORITY TO PRIMIN'S VISIT. INSTEAD, FOCUS LIKELY TO BE ON POSSIBILITY OF SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS SOME TIME THIS YEAR. FONMIN DID NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE FORMAL PROPOSAL, BUT INSTEAD POINTED OUT THAT BRIEF SUMMIT MEETING SOME TIME BEFORE FIRST TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN OCTOBER WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN TERMS BOTH OF EASING KOREAN AND OTHER ASIAN CONCERNS REGARDING TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND AS CRUCIAL ASPEC IN PROCESS OF IMPROVING US-ROKG RELATIONS. HE THOUGHT ONE DAY WORKING MEETING WITH NO FORMALITIES IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. FONMIN RECOGNIZED THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00550 210633Z

TONG-SUN PARK PROBLEM MUST BE PRETTY WELL OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE AND SO SPECULATED ABOUT MEETING SOME TIME BETWEEN AUGUST AND OCTOBER WHEN FIRST WITHDRAWAL IS PLANNED.

3. I POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES IMPOSED BY PRESIDENT'S ALREADY SCHEDULED MEETINGS WHICH FONMIN UNDERSTOOD. I

ADDED THAT I WILL EXPLORE POSSIBILITY VERY INFORMALLY WHEN I RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON SOME TIME IN LATE WINTER, WHICH FONMIN AGREED WAS PREFERABLE TO SEEKING AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

4.FONMIN ADDED THAT HIS OWN TRAVEL PLANS ARE JELLING. HE WILL BE DEPARTING SEOUL FEBRUARY 13 OR 14 FOR BRIEF VISIT TO TOKYO AND MEETING WITH FONMIN SONODA. HE WILL THEN GO TO EUROPE AND PLANS TO COME BACK VIA NEW YORK ABOUT END OF FEBRUARY. DEPENDING UPON CONVENIENCE OF SECRETARY VANCE, HE WOULD LIKE TO STOP BRIEFLY IN WASHINGTON FOR MEETING WITH HIM TO REVIEW CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS. I TOLD PRIMIN I WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

5. COMMENT: I WOULD SURMISE THAT PRIMIN'S VISIT HAS SUDDENLY BEEN SHORT CIRCUITED BY KOREAN DESIRE TO ARRANGE, IF POSSIBLE, BRIEF SUMMIT MEETING. FONMIN'S APPROACH BEING DESIGNED TO GRACEFULLY WALK AWAY FROM EARLIER PROPOSAL ON PRIMIN VISIT. I THINK WE CAN HOLD OFF ON ANY RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION ON SUMMIT MEETING FOR PRESENT, SINCE IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT KOREANS WISH TO INFORMALLY TEST GROUND BEFORE MAKING A MORE FORMAL APPROACH. I GATHER FROM OTHER REPORTING THAT SOUNDINGS WILL BE TAKEN IN WASHINGTON BY OTHER KOREANS. ASSUMING THAT THE PARK TONG SUN AFFAIR HAS SUFFICIENTLY COOLED OFF, THERE COULD BE REAL VALUE IN BRIEF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 00550 210633Z

SUMMIT MEETING, PERHAPS OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO REVIEW PROS AND CONS WHEN I RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS.

6. ON OTHER HAND, I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE BUSINESS MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FONMIN WHEN HE IS IN US IN LATE FEBRUARY--EARLY MARCH. BEYOND POTENTIALLY USEFUL DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL PROBLEMS, SUCH A MEETING COULD BE HELPFUL AS ANOTHER STEP IN IMPROVING ATMOSPHERICS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND KOREANS.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL00550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840157-2576, N780001-0674
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780137/aaaabevw.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 600c25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 SEOUL 242
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3734809
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGH LEVEL KOREAN VISITS
TAGS: OVIP, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/600c25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014